

REMARKS

Claims 1-62 are pending. Claims 1-62 are rejected. Claims 1, 4, 24, 26, 33, 43 and 46 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-62 remain pending. Reconsideration of the claims is requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 2 and 33 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 4, 24, 26, 33, 43 and 46 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 14-16, 24-27, 29, 33-35, 43-47, 49, and 54-56 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ekudden et al. (US 2001/0041981).

Claim Rejections – 35 § 103

Claims 6, 10, 17, 30, 36, 48, 51, and 57 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekudden in view of Perreault et al. (US 6,169,728).

Claims 9, 21-23, 28, 40-42, 50 and 60-62 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekudden in view of Tsunoda (US 6,516,435).

Claims 11, 12, 18, 19, 31, 32, 37, 38, 52, 53, 58 and 59 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekudden in view of Dedrick (US 5,754,787).

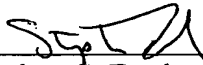
Claims 13, 20 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekudden in view of Dedrick in further view of Sidhu et al. (US 6,366,959).

A declaration is submitted with this Office Action response under 37 C.F.R. 1.131. The included declaration swears behind the Ekudden reference. Therefore, the Ekudden reference should not be used for rejecting the present claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or 35 USC 103(a).

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-62 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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